

Appendix A: Glossary of Terms

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Buffer – An element such as trees or a fence that separates one land use (such as residential) from another, incompatible land use (such as commercial).

CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) – Guidelines for minimizing crime in public and private spaces by addressing measures such as lighting, shrubs, and fences.

Economic Development Nodes – Areas within ¼ mile of a major, commercial intersection.

Implementation – Carrying out a plan; making plan components reality.

Infill Development – Development of small vacant lots between already developed properties.

Mixed Use – Different uses such as commercial, residential, and office occurring in the same building or area.

Neighborhood Market Drill Down – Study carried out by Social Compact, Inc. that uses data sources other than the U.S. Census to identify hidden market potential.

Pedestrian Oriented – Focusing on making it easy for people to walk from one place to another in a safe and pleasant environment.

Scale – How large or small something is; often used to compare structures to surrounding area.

Setback – Distance between a structure and the street curb.

Super Neighborhood – A geographic area made up of several neighborhoods with a council (Super Neighborhood Council) of stakeholders representing various interests. The City of Houston is divided into 88 Super Neighborhoods as part of an effort to make city government more accessible to neighborhood residents.

SNAP (Super Neighborhood Action Plan) – Plan developed by Super Neighborhood Councils outlining infrastructure and other priorities for a Super Neighborhood.

Strategy – A plan of action for accomplishing priorities identified in a planning process.

Streetscape – Trees, sidewalks, lighting, benches, etc. located in the public right-of-way.

TIRZ (Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone) – Special Districts created by City Council to attract new investment to an underdeveloped or blighted area. Once created, taxes from new development in the zone are set aside in a fund to finance public improvements in that zone.

Televillage – Concept for using telecommunications (computers, ATMs, distance learning etc) as the hub for a community center.

Transit – Buses, trains, shuttles that move large numbers of people from one place to another.

Transit-Oriented Development – A variety of land uses such as residential, commercial and office with easy access to transit stops.

Urban Design Guidelines – Suggestions for the design of new development and improvements to existing structures within the community.